

Page Denied

Nixon Wrong in Book, White House Asserts

The White House today issued a blunt denial of a charge by former Vice President Nixon that President Kennedy violated security restrictions during the 1960 election campaign in urging American support of intervention against the Castro regime in Cuba.

Mr. Nixon, whom Mr. Kennedy defeated in that campaign, charges in a book being published this month that Mr. Kennedy was told in a secret intelligence briefing during the campaign that the Eisenhower administration was training Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba.

A White House statement today asserted that Mr. Kennedy "was not told before the election of 1960 of the training of troops outside of Cuba or of any plans for 'supporting an invasion of Cuba,'" as charged by Mr. Nixon.

Date Pinpointed

The statement added that Mr. Kennedy wasn't informed of the operation referred to by Mr. Nixon until November 18, 1960, when as President-elect he received a briefing by Central Intelligence Agency top officials in Palm Beach, Fla.

"Mr. Nixon's account is apparently based on misunderstanding," the statement said.

Mr. Nixon charged that Mr. Kennedy was informed by Allen Dulles, then CIA director, of the Cuban invasion plans before Mr. Kennedy declared on October 20 that the United States must try to strengthen its democratic anti-Castro forces "who offer eventual hope of overthrowing Castro."

Mr. Nixon charged in his book, entitled "Six Crises," that he publicly advocating what the Government already was secretly preparing Mr. Kennedy

was "endangering the security of the whole operation."

Asked about the Nixon charges today, White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger read reporters the following statement:

"The President does not believe that intelligence briefings are a proper subject of public debate, but in the light of the account in Mr. Nixon's book it is necessary to say that the then Senator Kennedy was not told before the election of 1960 of the training of troops outside of Cuba or of any plans for 'supporting an invasion of Cuba.'"

"Mr. Nixon's account is apparently based on a misunderstanding."

Nixon Tells of Rage

"Senator Kennedy received two briefings from Allen Dulles of the CIA, the first on July 23, 1960, and the second on September 19, 1960."

"The two briefings covered an over-all review of the world situation during which Cuba was mentioned, but Senator Kennedy was first informed of the operation to which Mr. Nixon refers in a briefing by Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell of the CIA given in Palm Beach, Fla. on November 18, 1960."

Officials at the White House said Mr. Kennedy had received another briefing just six days before the election from Brig. Gen. Charles Cabell, then deputy director of the CIA, during which Cuba was not mentioned.

In telling about his version of the Cuban incident, Mr. Nixon said it was the only time he became enraged during the campaign.

"I thought that Kennedy was with full knowledge of the

facts, was jeopardizing the security of a foreign policy operation," comments Mr. Nixon. "And my rage was greater because I could do nothing about it."

The former Vice President says he was the chief advocate in the Eisenhower administration of a tough stand against Castro. But when Mr. Kennedy stumped for a strong line, Mr. Nixon contends he was forced to take a softer line—tossing publicly something entirely different from what he had been saying privately.

"There was only one thing I could do. The covert operation had to be protected at all costs," says Mr. Nixon. "I must not suggest even by implication that the United States was rendering aid to rebel forces in and out of Cuba. In fact, I must go to the other extreme; I must attack the Kennedy proposal to provide such aid as wrong and irresponsible because it would violate our treaty commitments."

Five Other Crises

The presidential campaign is one of the six crises in his political life that Mr. Nixon tells about in his book. The others:

The Hiss case, which raised him to national prominence as a freshman Congressman.

The blowup in 1952 over political funds raised by his friends.

President Eisenhower's heart attack, in which "my problem was to provide leadership without appearing to lead, or 'how to walk on eggs without breaking them.'"

Mr. Nixon's good-will visit to Caracas which he was stoned and spat upon.

His tour of Russia and the kitchen debate with Soviet Premier Khrushchev.

Mother Was Worried

Mr. Nixon also goes into the 1960 TV debate with Mr. Kennedy when Mr. Nixon looked so bad that his mother telephoned him to ask if he felt all right.

Mr. Nixon says he felt great but looked terrible because he had dropped 10 pounds without realizing it.

But his TV adviser, Ted Rogers, said there was more to it than losing weight.

"It is almost impossible to get a bad picture of Kennedy because of his coloring. On the other hand, it is difficult to get a good picture of Nixon."